

## Abstract 510

**TITLE:** Peer Education for HIV/AIDS Prevention Among Students in Higher Institutions of Learning in Uganda

**AUTHOR:** Lilian, NL

**ISSUE:** Ugandan youth aged 10-24 constitute 32% of the total population; the traditional systems that used to guide young people to address their sexuality and fertility responsibly have virtually, broken down. Youth-friendly focused sexual and reproductive health services are lacking in most parts of the country. Due to limited access to service, youth depend on unreliable methods of protection like withdrawal and safe periods. As a result of unprotected sex practice, the incidence of sexually transmitted infections among this age group is very high. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the youth aged 24 is high—the number of girls with STDs and those with AIDS is higher among females (52%) than males (34.6%). Of all Ugandans living with HIV/AIDS, 46% are in the age group 10-24 years. The number of cases in the age group 15-21 is 4 times higher among females than males. The youth in institutions of higher learning become more vulnerable because of the long periods of study that is not supported by adequate counseling and services. The cost of education for privately sponsored students contributes to increased vulnerability among some girls who practice commercial sex in order to raise income for fees and maintenance.

**PROJECT:** The Association addresses the problem by (a) training peer educators to provide information, counseling and services to their peers; (b) establishing youth clinics that provide STIs services among others; (c) organizing national AIDS awareness campaigns for youth and conducting research on the problem.

**SETTING:** The project is implemented in three institutions of higher learning in Uganda. The institutions have a total population of 23,000 students, 65% of whom are males.

**RESULTS:** Use of services increased from 3%-40%; students who bring partners for STD treatment increased from 2%-35%. Adolescent reproductive health policy has been in attaining behavioral change and sustainability of programs. Health care providers need to work with health researchers to develop responsive programs.

**LESSONS LEARNED:** Involvement of youth in programs in the decision-making process is crucial in attaining behavioral change and sustainability of programs. Health care providers need to work with health researchers in order to develop responsive programs.

**PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name:** Nakato Lamulatu Lillian

**Address:** Family Planning Association of Uganda  
Kampala, Uganda

**Fax:** 256-540657

**E-Mail:** [fpau@swiftuganda.com](mailto:fpau@swiftuganda.com)